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For more information, contact:  
Frances Breyne  
Communications Director  
785-296-4731

### **State Employee Health Care Commission Sends KHPA Back to the Bargaining Table**

Late yesterday, the Kansas State Employee Health Care Commission (HCC) approved contracts for two of five potential health services companies for the State Employee Health Plan (SEHP). A self-insured health plan, the SEHP is currently re-bidding contracts to provide administrative services only (ASO) for Kansas state employees and their dependents.

Based on the overall cost and quality of the submitted contract bids, the KHPA provided the Commission with recommendations to offer contracts to Coventry Health Services and Preferred Health Services (PHS). The Commission approved both recommendations. The Health Care Commission then directed the KHPA to continue negotiations with the remaining three vendors – Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas, the Government Employee Health Association, and United Health Care.

According to Director of State Employee Benefits Doug Farmer, “These negotiations provide a huge benefit to state employees and to the State of Kansas. The HCC will ensure that the highest quality, most cost-effective vendors are selected to participate in the State Employee Health plan.”

The HCC will reconvene at the end of July to evaluate the contract bids of the three remaining providers and determine whether to approve additional contracts. The State of Kansas currently has three ASO contracts, with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas, Coventry Health Services and Preferred Health Services.

For more information on State Employee Health Benefits, visit the KHPA website at:  
<http://www.khpa.ks.gov/SEHBP/2008/default.htm>

Rm. 900-N, Landon Building, 900 SW Jackson Street, Topeka, KS 66612-1220

[www.khpa.ks.gov](http://www.khpa.ks.gov)

Medicaid and HealthWave:  
Phone: 785-296-3981  
Fax: 785-296-4813

State Employee Health  
Benefits and Plan Purchasing:  
Phone: 785-368-6361  
Fax: 785-368-7180

State Self Insurance Fund:  
Phone: 785-296-2364  
Fax: 785-296-6995